

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 696

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor the congregation of First Baptist Church of Lebanon on the celebration of the church's 200th anniversary.

WHEREAS, we are pleased to recognize those historic churches and their congregations who have dedicated themselves and their resources to spreading the good news of the Gospel in their communities, thereby lifting up society with God's word; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church of Lebanon has worked to improve the quality of both spiritual and temporal life in Tennessee for the past 200 years; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church of Lebanon was constituted on June 30, 1821, as a branch of Spring Creek Church, with other churches also participating in the constitution; and

WHEREAS, since conducting services in members' homes, the Wilson County Court house, and a log cabin during its early years, First Baptist has called three buildings home during the past 172 years, with the current church building having been completed in 1968; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist has held membership in three associations, Concord, Salem, and the Wilson County Baptist Association, the last of which was organized in the Lebanon Baptist Church in 1921; the church has also been a strong supporter of the cooperative mission efforts of the Tennessee Baptist and Southern Baptist conventions; and

WHEREAS, during its 200-year history, First Baptist Church has never lost sight of its mission to spread the Gospel; in addition to sending out preachers and missionaries, First Baptist has helped sponsor five missions, which resulted in the establishment of Fairview, Southside, Hillcrest, West Hills, and Iglesia Renacer Baptist churches; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church of Lebanon marked its 190th anniversary in 2011 with a "Servebration," a year-long community outreach effort that sent members into the community to serve alongside other Gospel partners; and

WHEREAS, as part of the festivities, First Baptist also hosted community concerts featuring the Youth Choir from the First Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia, and the Tennessee Baptist Men's Chorale; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist celebrated its bicentennial in 2021; the observance commenced with the opening of the Sanctuary Cornerstone after seventy years and the contents thereof then being displayed in the Welcome Center; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist also held a "homecoming" celebration on Sunday, June 27, 2021, and a community-wide "birthday party" called Light-Up Lebanon followed on June 30th; and

WHEREAS, it is only fitting that we extend our best wishes to First Baptist Church of Lebanon for many future blessings as the church's exemplary ministry continues to inspire individuals in the Lebanon community and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the pastor and congregation of First Baptist Church of Lebanon on the celebration of their 200th anniversary and wish them much continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.